

REMARKS

This is in response to the Examiner's Answer mailed on January 14, 2004. Claims 1, 3-23, 26, 29, 31-53 and 56 are on appeal.

In the Examiner's Answer, claims 1, 3-22 and 29-47 are indicated as being in allowable form. With the present amendment, claims 23, 26, 48-53 and 56 are being canceled without prejudice and without surrendering the right to pursue such claims in an additional application.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Once this amendment has been entered, the appeal of 09/520,389 will no longer be necessary. Applicant respectfully requests that action necessary to withdraw the appeal and allow the pending claims be undertaken. Favorable action is respectfully solicited.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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